



California Recovery Task Force

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Governor Schwarzenegger Announces \$25 Million in Federal Stimulus Funds to "Green" State Government Buildings

Efficiency Upgrades Will Reduce Energy Use, Cut Energy Costs and Create Jobs

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced that \$25 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funding is now available through revolving loan to retrofit antiquated energy systems in state office buildings. The Department of General Services' (DGS) Energy Efficient State Property Loan Program will administer the funding, which was awarded by the California Energy Commission (CEC).

"From DMV offices to state high rises, upgrading state government buildings will help keep and create jobs, reduce energy use and save money for the state and its taxpayers," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "With these funds we can improve the energy use of older government buildings, resulting in lowered energy costs and a healthier working environment."

The DGS Energy Efficient State Property Revolving Loan Program, funded from the State Energy Program (SEP), will provide loans to state departments and agencies for energy efficiency projects that could include installing new heating and ventilation systems, upgrading lighting, improving control systems, and optimizing the performance of existing systems. Loans will concentrate on projects that reduce electricity use during peak demand periods, have long-term savings, can save and create jobs and have a shorter payback period. DGS plans to invest approximately \$13 million to upgrade buildings requiring more sophisticated energy efficiency retrofits. The balance of the funds will concentrate on smaller building retrofits or "tune-ups" with a payback period of five years or less.

"These projects will drive increased energy efficiency and conservation at state buildings and help to lower greenhouse gas emissions and operating costs," said DGS Acting

Director Ron Diedrich. “Energy efficiency is a key element of the states green building program that benefits both the environment and the taxpayers. Equally important for California are the estimated 500 jobs that will be created through these landmark projects.”

Through the SEP up to \$95 million is available for energy projects focused on residential and commercial building retrofits and on-site photovoltaic system installation. The CEC estimates that retrofitting California’s aged and inefficient residential and non-residential structures through the SEP could save 164.6 million kWh of energy annually and create more than 2,100 jobs.

“Stimulating the economy and putting Californians to work is the purpose of Recovery Act funds,” said CEC Chairman Karen Douglas. “Investing in energy efficiency projects just makes sound economic sense because it keeps jobs in the community and money in people’s pocketbooks.”

California has received a total of \$226 million SEP Recovery Act funds to implement public and private sector programs. The SEP funds will be aimed at combining grants, contracts and loans to fund activities that concentrate on green jobs training, clean energy systems and energy efficiency measures and upgrades for residential and non-residential structures including improvements such as insulation, duct sealing, heating and cooling and water heating systems.

In 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger issued California’s Green Building Initiative through Executive Order [S-20-04](#), which calls for state facilities to be designed, built and operated as models of energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. The initiative requires the state to reduce grid-based energy usage in its buildings 20 percent by 2015 and, in so doing, reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions. As the state’s real estate portfolio manager, DGS oversees the design, construction and operations of the majority of state office buildings. The state’s green building database is available online at www.greenbuildings.dgs.ca.gov.

Additionally, in 2008, the Governor [announced](#) the adoption of the country’s first statewide Green Building Standards Code by the California Building Standards Commission. The adopted 2008 code went into effect on August 1, 2009. It is currently a voluntary standard and will become mandatory in the 2010 code. The International Code Council [announced](#) it is developing a new code for commercial buildings entitled the International Green Construction Code, and will use the current California Green Building Standards Code as a key reference document.

For information about energy-related federal stimulus funding and programs visit <http://energy.ca.gov/recovery/index.html>.

For information about Recovery Act spending in California please visit: www.recovery.ca.gov.